

Opinion

Commentary

Drinking age unfair

by Nancy Fox

What does it mean to be an adult? You turn 18 and the doors of opportunity open. At 18 you can vote, go to college, drive, get married, raise children, work, go to war, be thrown in jail and be thrown out onto the streets. At 18 you are suddenly and frighteningly a legal adult with all the responsibilities and privileges that it entails. Almost.

Our society dictates that, to be an adult, an individual must be mature enough to take on the responsibilities of adulthood. When you turn 18, you are expected to have reached that level of maturity.

Though society has placed the crown of responsibility on the 18-year-old head, it hasn't given up all of the privileges. A legal adult under the age of 21 still cannot buy beer. The same people who expect 18 year olds to be responsible for their actions treat the young adults like children by not allowing them to drink. Perhaps the true mark of adulthood is hypocrisy.

The drinking age is no mere irony of life. It is an injustice. If 18-20 year olds are old enough to take on all other aspects of adulthood, they are certainly responsible enough to decide for themselves whether or not to drink.

This group of young adults also knows right from wrong. They pay the price for criminal or immoral behavior. Why shouldn't they reap all of the benefits of "good" behavior?

An 18 year old who breaks the law is put in prison with other criminals and expected to cope. Yet, an 18 year old who

is a law-abiding citizen doesn't share the right to drink that any 21-year-old criminal enjoys.

A higher age limit doesn't prevent young adults from drinking, it only forces them to become sneaker. Some underaged people drink simply to rebel against an unjust law.

The drinking age is one of the most common and overlooked legal forms of discrimination practiced in America. Because people are under 21 doesn't mean they can't handle themselves when drinking. I know many middle-aged citizens who make worse "drunks" than their underaged counterparts.

One reason for this discrimination is that older people feel more secure and superior if younger people are "kept in their place."

The main reason politicians in many states passed the 21-year-old drinking age limit — besides the federal highway fund bill that was attached to it — was to appease the largest group of active voters: middle-aged, middle-class, white Americans.

The drinking age is an irrational and unjust law that defeats the purpose of making 18 year olds legal adults. It's a warped society that demands young citizens behave as adults even though they're treated like children.

The legal drinking age should be 18. As it stands, millions of Americans are being discriminated against in a manner that undermines the very meaning of adulthood.

'Fletch' sequel is a success

by Michael Cissne

The key to a movie sequel is to keep whatever made its predecessor successful and hopefully change the bad parts. At the same time, the sequel must avoid the problem of being criticized for being too similar to the original. "Fletch Lives" is an excellent example of a successful sequel.

This Universal production was directed by Michael Ritchie, who also received credit for the original "Fletch," released a few years earlier. "Fletch" was taken directly from a book by the same title, one in a series written by George McDonald in the 1970s. "Fletch Lives," however, was written as a follow-up for movie-goers.

"Fletch" and "Fletch Lives" contain two strong themes — comedy and mystery. Although these themes are as old as theater itself, Fletch, the title character, attracts them in a unique way so the viewer can be entertained with an age-old theme, but with a different story than one would predict.

Chevy Chase plays Irwin M. Fletcher, known as Fletch. On occasion, he likes to be called other names, like Victor Hugo, Billy Jean King, Harry S. Truman, Claude Smoot and Ed Harley, depending on the situation.

Fletch is a California newspaper reporter who writes a column under the name of Jane Doe. He frequently disguises himself for investigation purposes, which always proves to be a hilarious scene.

In one scene Fletch disguises himself as Ed Harley of Harley Davidson Motorcycles. Fletch walks into a bikers' bar wearing an outfit that would surely cause trouble, for it is quite "nerdy," if he did not convince the bikers that he was the son of the owner of Harley Davidson.

In "Fletch Lives," originally called "Fletch Saved" due to the amount of televangelism in the movie, Fletch leaves the newspaper when he hears that he has inherited the Belle Isle Estate in Louisiana, once owned by his late aunt. Fletch is unwelcomed by the folks in Louisiana, and is actually told to get out of town.

The sequel begins as if it could have started where the original left off, but there is no actual evidence that this is true. The characters act as if the sequel starts the day after the original ended.

CE banquet held

by Patricia Schissel

Continuing education students were asked to vote recently for the teacher they believed helped them most during their enrollment at Clarke. The choice was Lois Hand, Ph.D., former chair of the social work department.

Hand, who left Clarke in December, returned Friday, April 28, to speak at the Annual CE Banquet and Dance.

Speaking before approximately 100 non-traditional-aged students in the Mary Josita Dining Room, Hand expressed gratitude to the Clarke Community for the love and support she received while here.

She said that many professors enjoy having CE students in their classes because they can relate to the struggles and sacrifices non-traditional-aged students endure in trying to balance family job and school.

"We understand what you're going through and we respect your hard work and perseverance," Hand said.

She specifically thanked the sociology and social work majors for their dedication to the profession. "Nobody goes into this field to get rich," she said. "You have to be the kind of individual who has a deep desire to help people."

Hand also believes that people in her profession need to get away from teaching sometimes and get back into the field to sharpen their skills.

Jaro Sebek, a senior art major, said that the timing of the CE Banquet was just right. "It offered people a chance to relax and have some fun before finals," he said.

The dance, which featured music by Premier Productions, was held in the student union.

The actions of the editor, Fletch's ex-wife's attorney and Fletch himself remind the viewer what the first movie was like. For some of us who have seen the original 12 times, it's hard to forget the personalities of the characters.

A sequel should be judged, however, without comparing it to its predecessor for its entertainment value. Either way, "Fletch Lives" is a hit, not quite as good as the first, but still notable.

What is especially nice about the sequel is that nearly all the characters important in "Fletch" also starred in the second film. This consistency helped me to remember the story in the original film.

Chase is superb as Fletch. McDonald's books speak of Fletch as a younger and more attractive fellow than Chase's portrayal, but critics cannot deny that Chase played the part excellently.

Chase was a master of impressions as he changed his face for each crowd he met. If you walked into one of the scenes where Fletch was disguised, you wouldn't have known it was him.

One thing that makes the movie enjoyable is the humor. The comedy is often evident through several one-liner jokes, but Fletch's actions throughout make the movie quite funny.

The mystery in "Fletch Lives" is handled well. Fletch discovers clues during humorous activity and at a rate that keeps the action moving. Average viewers will not discover the resolution of the mystery until Fletch allows them. The viewer always thinks the buttler did it.

The film was predestined to be rated less than excellent. When its predecessor was highly rated, "Fletch Lives" was forced to compete with what this critic calls a masterpiece.

"Fletch Lives" was successful in its attempt to repeat the positive quality of "Fletch," while improving points that could be considered negative. But I am still disappointed that the sequel wasn't better than the first. If "Fletch Lives" had been released first, it would probably have been considered a masterpiece. Then again, Leonardo DeVinci only painted one "Mona Lisa."

Church values need support

by Greg Chesmore

In story after story we read of the supposed crumbling of the Catholic Church, and sit back and wonder if these problems really do exist. Could it be possible that the parishes many of us grew up in, the rituals many of us cherish and the basic traditions of the church are all headed into the history books to be forgotten by generations to come? Should the United States Catholic Church become the modern technologically institution many so-called experts claim it must to survive?

Millions of American Catholics have long been accused of being mavericks, testing Papal authority on such controversial issues as the ordination of women, homosexuality, abortion, birth control and an end to celibacy. Are these and other issues really as controversial as the "experts" believe? Perhaps there is some opposition to many church policies among American Catholics, and yes, these conflicts deserve attention. However, focusing on a crusade to radically change and eventually "save" the church is not the solution. By constantly confronting and challenging the Vatican on every issue, we are forgetting about many of Christianity's goals and only dividing the church even more.

Perhaps I lean a bit to the conservative side when discussing the Catholic tradition and Catholic issues, but I simply do not believe removing certain rituals such as the creed, kneeling in prayer, the sign of peace, and so-called "sexist" rituals and prayers

is the solution. Many churches across the country are removing such items from masses today.

In my own opinion on the ordination of women and celibacy, if American Catholics strive to remember their Christian ideals and goals, a compromise could be made. Granted, papal authority and rules do not bend easily, but even more division could lead to our church's downfall. That is something all of us must be concerned about.

The stability and financial problems of Catholic Churches throughout the U.S. are real. Instead of adding further strain on U.S. Catholic-Vatican relations, perhaps an end to this radical reconstruction of Catholic ideals is in order. A discussion of conflicting opinions is important, but until the modern-day Catholic crisis is over, a truce is needed.

As fundamentalism and evangelism continue to gain converts in record numbers, we, as Catholics, need to reexamine our priorities.

If American Catholics continue to ignore the future of the church, the Catholic faith as we know it today could be doomed. I for one am tired of the attempted revamp and reports of the possible downfall of the U.S. Catholic Church. I am proud to be a Catholic, but if tradition and ritual continue to be excluded from the masses and the basic teachings of the faith, that pride may not be enough — the true American Catholic Church may be non-existent.

Congratulations Seniors
from
the Courier staff

May 5, 1989

equel is a success!

May 5, 1989

The Courier

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Feature

Ex-FBI employee in charge of alumni

by Ann Steer

She answers the phone. "This is Margaret Kolck, alumni director of Clarke College."

Kolck came to Clarke two years ago when she heard that the position was open. She applied and the job was hers.

Like her mother, who was the national alumni president of Clarke for 12 years, Kolck has already won an award for her excellent work. She received the Newcomer's Scholarship from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. She won the award with a perfect score of 17 out of 17 points in a competitive process

designed to recognize those persons with a high degree of motivation and promise.

Kolck's connections with Clarke are strong. She carried on after her mother, who graduated from Clarke in 1927, and received her degree in history from Clarke in 1970. She spent her junior year in Honolulu, Hawaii, and went to the University of Dayton after graduating, where she received her M.A. in history.

Kolck had plans to teach history to high school or college students, but they didn't work out. "At that time, men got the jobs because they had coaching certificates along with history degrees. I didn't want to

coach," she said. After a friend working for the FBI in Washington, D.C., advised her to apply, Kolck went to work as a FBI position classification specialist. Because she handled sensitive files, she had to go through a security check. "They wanted to be sure that my father wasn't an ex-convict and that I didn't belong to a young Communist party or things of that nature."

Kolck stayed in this position for two years before she transferred to the Classifications Appeals Office in the Office of Personnel Management. She was then able to interview personnel at all levels of the federal government.

"It was very interesting," she said. "I got to see how government works. I also met a variety of people — from generals to agency directors."

It was her husband who brought her back to Dubuque. She met him through a mutual friend. He worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for a senator.

Ironically, Richard Kolck was from Dubuque. "My mother used to quip," she said, "You had to go all the way to Washington, D.C., to meet and marry a boy from Dubuque, Iowa — and a Loras graduate at that!"

The Kolcks moved back to Dubuque 11 years ago and bought the insurance agency owned by her father. Margaret took five years off from working to raise her two sons, Ricky, 9, and David, 4.

During this time, she served on five volunteer boards. She was a member of the Dubuque Visiting Nurse Association, the Clarke Alumni Board, Hospice of Dubuque, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Dubuque Montessori School, Inc. Margaret was also appointed by the governor as a commissioner to the Iowa State Commission of the Blind. "I was the only sighted person," she said. "It was a wonderful experience."

"I love to work. Staying at home all the time would drive me crazy."

However, Margaret doesn't allow work to interfere with her family life. She and her family find interesting things to do on the weekends. They go on picnics and walks through the woods on their 185 acres of land.

Margaret hopes that her sons will get involved in 4-H. "My mother pushed me to go to a big city and I'd like the boys to experience big-city life. But, by living here in Dubuque, the boys can experience freedom while growing up. We don't have to pack



Margaret Kolck is known on campus for her stylish clothes, strong will, good nature, big-city sophistication and determination. (photo by Kelly Smith)

up and go to a city park."

Like other families living on a farm, the Kolcks have five cats and a 65-pound Chesapeake Bay retriever puppy. "Last Mothers' Day the mother cat delivered four darling kittens in the woods and then showed up with them on the doorstep."

Margaret hasn't lost her big-city sophistication when it comes to her career. S. Therese Mackin, development director at Clarke, said that Kolck has a real sense of organization. "She must organize activities, like homecoming, that contain many diverse audiences. Alums are at different stages and they want to celebrate homecoming in different ways."

Mackin also said Margaret has a strong will and determination. "She knows what she wants and how to do it," said Mackin. "Margaret is fun."

To celebrate her 40th birthday, Kolck's co-workers threw a surprise party, including black balloon, black streamers and a cake shaped like a tombstone.

Photographs were taken at the party to be used in a newsletter by the public relations department. "Ironically," said Mackin, "the only space left for a picture was next to the death notices."

Announcements, Briefs & Coming events

Starting times for tonight's College Week events have been changed to: Junior and Senior Class Reception, 3:45; Senior Slide Show, 4:20; Freshman and Sophomore Class Reception, 5:15; Honors Banquet, 6:00; and the Senior Show immediately following the banquet.

a b c

An article on the production "The Miss Firecracker Contest" in the April 29 edition of *The Courier*, attributed the play "Baby with the Bath Water," by Christopher Durang, to Beth Henley. The other play by Henley to be performed at Clarke was "The Wake of Jamie Foster."

a b c

Sophomores Marilee Dean and Amy Edgar will perform a vocal and piano recital on Sunday, May 7, in the Jansen Music Hall at 2 p.m. The performance is free and open

"One act, one single act launched by a person in response to a real human need...is worth more than all the burial mounds of rhetoric, all the enfeebled good intentions, all the mumbling and fumbling and tardiness of those who are so busy cultivating their idolatries that they cannot hear the cry of the man in the ditch." — Phillip Berrigan.

Phenix, the Clarke Justice and Peace group, announced its spring Nicaraguan Humanitarian Aid Drive in conjunction with Loras College. Boxes for contributions, such as clothes, shoes, towels, bedding, school and bath supplies, and raingear, will be placed on each dormitory floor, in the CE lounge, in the CBH lobby and on first floor MJH.

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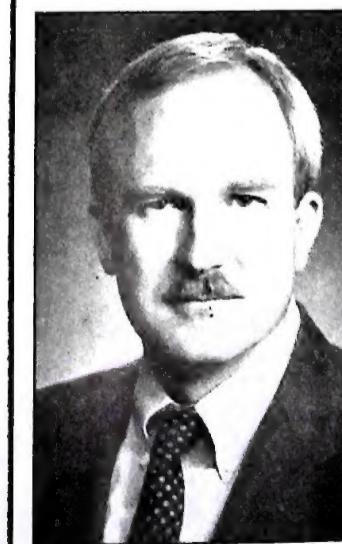
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Feature

Catholic schools help student

by Erin Lawler

With graduation fast approaching, many seniors are anxious about what their futures will bring. Monique Whittington is among these students, but Whittington has already taken steps to secure a future for herself in the arts. She has applied and been conditionally accepted at Chicago's Columbia College in their Interdisciplinary Arts Education program.

Whittington thinks the education she's received from Catholic schools has played a key role in her success in being accepted into graduate school. Although she is not Catholic, Whittington has been in Catholic schools since kindergarten. She feels she has experienced more integration in private schools than she might have in a public school. However, one of Whittington's concerns for Clarke is the small minority population. She wishes more minority students would see what Clarke can offer them besides athletics. Whittington said Clarke was her first choice for a college because it could offer her so many options such as drama, communications or music.

At the time she was looking into colleges, Whittington was quite enamored with the theater due to the many musical theater productions she had been in while at Elizabeth Seton high school. Music was, obviously, another of her loves. Due to the rigors of both the music and theater departments at Clarke, Whittington knew she could only major in one or the other. She chose drama, but has remained very active in the music department and has done a lot of singing within her major.

Her first chance to expose her acting abilities without musical back up was in Clarke's production of *The Diviners*. Whittington has been on the stage in many of Clarke's productions, but said, "Quilters was my ultimate theater experience so far. It showed me at my best." Her theater experience at Clarke has been much more than just acting and singing. She has also been involved in set construction, costuming and publicity.

Being busy with theater hasn't kept Whittington away from other Clarke experiences. She is glad she could get a liberal arts education and also focus on drama. Whittington said she has gained a

lot of "book knowledge" as well as analytical skills, and she feels this is due to four years of play analysis. This was apparent on her GRE exam. "My analytical score was the highest out of all my scores. Everything else was plain, old average." Whittington said.

With good grades and experiences in theater and music from Clarke, Whittington will head off to Columbia College, where she will enter a two-year program to earn a master's degree. Her first year will be a potpourri of arts. She will take classes in art, dance and theater. She will specialize more in her second year, probably in arts-administration or arts education. With a master's degree, Whittington will be qualified to teach on the college level. Pursuing a doctorate is another option for her.

Whittington will be a non-traditional student in her program; it's basically for professionals who have experience. She feels that Clarke has given her the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to be successful in this program. Whittington will use her communication minor to help with her study of visual arts. Her music minor will aid her music study and she will take up where her theater major at Clarke will leave off. All this training will lead Whittington into a career in the arts—particularly in theater.

While all this is very exciting and new to Whittington, she said she is very sad about leaving Clarke. "I love Clarke," she said. "The people here are exceptional." Whittington said her years at Clarke have given her a more realistic, mature outlook on life.



Monique Whittington (by Molly Menke)

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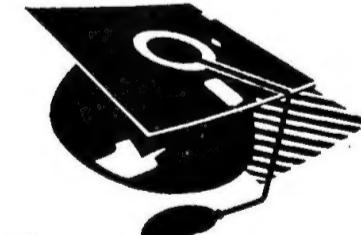
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